

Halls of Fame. Her three honorary degrees include one from the Berkeley College of Music, and she has received more than two dozen national awards recognizing her leadership and ingenuity. Esquire Magazine's designation of Ms. Preston as "the most influential and powerful person in country music" is typical of the respectful and admiring treatment she deservedly receives in the press.

Her expertise on songwriters' issues has also made Ms. Preston an effective and valuable resource on Capitol Hill, to the equal benefit of both her "constituents" and of lawmakers, and her influence has been broadly felt in the law of intellectual property. Over the years, policymakers in all levels of government have sought her counsel, including Tennessee Governor Winfield Dunn, Vice-President Al Gore, and President Jimmy Carter.

Despite her many accolades from the music industry, Ms. Preston still considers her community contributions to be among her greatest achievements. Her proudest accomplishment, she says, was her pivotal role in creating the Frances Williams Preston Research Laboratories at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center. In addition to her numerous board memberships and community leadership roles, Ms. Preston was the first woman board member of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce, and the first woman Rotarian in Tennessee. It is a person of commendable character who looks back on a star-filled life to see her community service as the highlight of it all.

On behalf of the Fifth District of Tennessee, I applaud Frances Williams Preston's contributions to music, business, her community, and our Nation, and I wish her a happy and healthy retirement.

CONGRATULATING MR. TONY BENNETTI ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2004*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Anthony C. Bennetti is retiring from the Santa Clara Valley Water District as General Counsel to the Board of Directors. During his service, he played an important role in resolving legal issues with the California State Water Project and the Central Valley Project. During his tenure, he helped to secure needed financing for the capital expansion of water utility infrastructure for Santa Clara County.

Prior to his service with the Santa Clara Valley Water District, Mr. Bennetti served as Acting City Attorney and Senior Assistant City Attorney for the City of Palo Alto, California, and

Senior Deputy City Attorney for the City of San Jose, California. In all, he has contributed over 24 years of public service to the State of California. The community thanks him for his years of service and congratulates him and the Water District upon his retirement.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2004*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of our seniors. May is Older Americans Month, and I commend communities around the country for the special work they are doing to honor senior citizens.

The theme of Older Americans Month for 2004 is "Aging Well, Living Well." Every day I see examples of seniors in my district in western Wisconsin who are indeed aging and living well. Eighty-year-old constituents who continue to work every day stop by my office to discuss issues that impact their businesses; grandparents tell me about the hours they spend each week volunteering at The Boys and Girls Club or other sites; and seniors faithfully show up at town hall meetings, asking questions, sharing opinions, and demonstrating their knowledge of what goes on here in Washington.

It is especially fitting to celebrate seniors this month as we prepare for the dedication of the World War II Memorial. More than perhaps any other event, World War II will long define the heroism, patriotism and strength of what is aptly called "the greatest generation." Sixteen million Americans served in the armed forces during the war. Millions more served at home by growing victory gardens, collecting scrap metal, and taking factory jobs to support the troops overseas and keep the country running. Men who had never left their home states were shipped halfway around the world to serve in the Asian and Pacific theaters. And women who had never held jobs outside the home took work in factories, offices, and on faraway battlefields. Nearly sixty years after the conclusion of this war, the stories of these brave men and women remain moving.

After serving and sacrificing on the war front and the home front, this generation then returned home to construct the interstate highway system, explore outer space, and see America through an unprecedented era of growth and improvement. Clearly, we can never adequately thank this generation for what they have done. No words can express how grateful we are for the milestones—surviving the Great Depression, winning World War II—or for those everyday struggles and sacrifices that go largely unrecorded.

The seniors throughout our country—the retired schoolteachers, the millions of veterans, the farmers and all those who helped make our country great—deserve more thanks than we can give them. I am glad, though, that we have this month to recognize the generation that defined America in the 20th Century and continues to impact us all today.

HOMAGE TO MR. EDWARD LEON "SHINE" JESSUP

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2004*

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to a legend in my hometown of Union City, Tennessee, Mr. Edward Leon "Shine" Jessup.

Shine is being honored for his 40 years of service as an employee of the W. R. Case Company. But he has done so much more in his life. He was born on November 30, 1918, graduated from high school in 1936 and enlisted in the Army Air Corps in January of 1942. He entered the Aviation Cadet Program and went to Cadet Pilot Training in Arkansas and onto the Advanced Program. He got his wings in 1943 and was sent to the Overseas Training Unit.

Stationed at Rackheath, England, First Lieutenant Jessup flew a B-24, named "Mis-B-Havin" on 30 missions as an 8th Air Force Lead Crew Pilot. In February of 1945 he was stationed at Randolph Field in Texas where he taught cadets until June.

He received the Distinguished Flying Cross three times, the Air Medal five times, the ETO Ribbon, the Good Conduct Ribbon several times as well as various other ribbons.

He married Aurelia McGuire on May 1, 1943, in Jonesboro, Arkansas. They had two children—Linda Jo Jessup Jennings and Edward Leon Jessup, Jr.

After leaving the Army in 1945, "Shine" began his career as a salesman for Shapleigh Hardware Company in Waycross, Georgia. After a year in Georgia, he transferred back to Union City. He worked for Shapleigh until 1960 when he took a job with Witte Hardware until 1964. It was in that year that he began his career with the W. R. Case Company with whom he has been associated for the last 40 years.

Shine Jessup has contributed much to his community, his state and his country. As we dedicate the World War II Memorial this month here in Washington, D.C., I rise to pay honor to a very special veteran, and a long time friend of mine and my entire family, Shine Jessup.